

**Hopkinton Budget Committee  
Town Hall  
October 14, 2009**

**Present:** Patrice Gerseny – Chair; Marion Paxton; Cameron Ford; David Lancaster; Karen Irwin; Danny Coen; George Langwasser – Selectmen; David Luneau – School Board; Tom O'Donnell – Hopkinton Village Precinct Bob Carpenter; Contoocook Village Precinct

Meeting start: 6:37 pm.

The meeting began with a review of draft minutes from 3 past meetings.

September 9, 2009

Motion to accept with changes      Cameron Ford  
Seconded      David Luneau

Minutes accepted with changes.

September 16, 2009

Motion to accept with changes      David Lancaster  
Seconded      Cameron Ford

Minutes accepted with changes

September 23, 2009

Motion to accept with changes      David Luneau  
Seconded      Marion Paxton

Minutes accepted with changes

**Old Business**

**Town** – George Langwasser presenting.

1, **Bohanan Farm** – the Selectmen voted Monday night to accept the purchase and sales agreement. The conservation easement is still with the Federal Government. The selectmen cannot start the 35 day clock to schedule a special meeting until the easement has been approved. The town is looking to bond \$400,000.

Karen Irwin commented that the Budget Committee has a process to follow if a bond is involved. A discussion followed concerning whether a Budget Committee Public Hearing is required or if the original article passed in '03 circumvents the Budget Committee Public Hearing.

Karen will call LGC - Local Government Center  
George will speak to town counsel

2. Tax bills cannot go out until after the School District Special meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**School** – David Luneau presenting.

1. **Special School District meeting** - The School Board received a clarification from DRA, Dept. of Revenue Administration, no minimum number of registered voters is required at the special meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. School Board members are promoting the meeting and would like as many registered voters to be at the meeting as possible.

Marion Paxton attended the senior luncheon and said that Superintendent Steve Chamberlin and School Board member Kim Fuller gave a presentation that was very well done in her opinion.

Chair Gerseny wants noted in the minutes of this meeting, her discomfort and that of other Budget Committee members at the change in attendance requirements for

the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Superintendent and School Board members when asked during past Budget meetings advised that 50% of the number of registered voters who attended the Annual School District meeting in March had to attend. That meant 317 registered voters and now there is no minimum. She stated that she believed that some Budget members may have voted differently had they known there was no minimum number of registered voters required to be there.

Cameron Ford expressed the same concern and may have voted differently.

Karen Irwin questioned why the need for a warrant for the 1<sup>st</sup> year/part of year of the HEA contract. She feels the School Board could have found the just over \$11,000 in the budget they already have.

### **New Business**

**Hopkinton Village Precinct** – Tom O'Donnell presenting.

Tom advised that the precinct has done some personnel housekeeping and hired a CPA. Tom will meet with the CPA tomorrow.

**Contoocook Village Precinct** – Bob Carpenter presenting.

Bob reported there were no overall problems.

Through 8/31 operating expenses were 56% for the year.

Water bills are at 73% collection

The next water bill, next week or so, will have the new rates.

**Town** – George Langwasser presenting.

The committee members reviewed the spread sheets. They discussed: sewer fees - who's responsible for them and how the fee is arrived at; estimated cash flow – may not need a TAN; checking account interest – minimal interest on accounts; shared revenue block grant – state assured that Hopkinton would get it; water line by land fill – DES wants a permanent solution and Selectmen will address it at the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>, the cost may need a bond; Warner and Webster landfill payments.

#### **Committee questions:**

Chair Gerseny – Specifically how many dollars were transferred from the Fire Dept. to Planning when the Code Enforcement position changed departments..

Karen Irwin - Stimulus dollars, how much and where spent.

Danny Coen – Flu shot clinic update and the cost to the town.

Cameron Ford & Danny Coen – Is the OT in Public Works going to frontline folks or supervisors.

**School** - Dave Luneau presenting.

The School Board has not reviewed the August financials. He will present them at the next meeting.

The School Board and Board of Selectmen are looking into holding a joint meeting for continued cooperation.

George Langwasser added that this is good for several reasons that will help the boards think about the future so each is not operating within a vacuum environment and will share future ideas.

George Langwasser also commented that the Board of Selectmen have received grant approval for a generator to be housed at the high school. They are looking to share the purchase with the district not covered by the grant, just over \$100,000.

**Calendar –**

The town will present their budgets before January 1 and the school will present after January 1.

The November meeting has been changed from November 11, Veteran's Day, to November 12.

Chair Gerseny will add the absolute deadline date for a Bond Hearing.

**Public Comment**

**None**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Clark  
Secretary